

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 INR-10 NSC-07

NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PRS-01 /065 R

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APPROVED BY S/S-O:RELTZ

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INR - MR. PACKMAN

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Z P 052318Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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TOSEC 270

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PGOV, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: MITTERRAND AND GISCARD WIN FIRST ROUND OF
FRENCH ELECTION

1. FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT PREPARED BY EUR
AND INR AS OF 7:00 PM EDT.

2. WITH NEARLY 60 PERCENT (15 MILLION OF ABOUT 26 MILLION)
OF THE BALLOTS COUNTED, MITTERRAND LEADS WITH 42.6 PER
CENT, GISCARD HAS 32.7 PERCENT AND CHABAN HAS 15 PERCENT.
CHABAN HAS ALREADY CONCEDED.

3. POLLING ORGANIZATION PROJECTIONS BASED ON A SMALLER
VOTE TOTAL INDICATE THAT MITTERRAND WILL FINISH WITH
43-44 PERCENT OF THE VOTE AND GISCARD WITH SOME 33 PERCENT.
MITTERRAND'S SHOWING IS IN LINE WITH PRE-ELECTION POLLS.
CHABAN DID WORSE THAN WAS PREDICTED AND GISCARD COMMEN-
SURATELY BETTER.

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4. MITTERRAND CAN BE EXPECTED TO GO INTO THE SECOND (MAY 19) ROUND WITH THIS SOLID BASE OF 43-44 PERCENT OF THE VOTE, REFLECTING THE STRENGTH OF THE TRADITIONAL LEFT. HE CAN PROBABLY COUNT UPON THE APPROXIMATELY 3 PERCENT RECEIVED BY SEVERAL RADICAL LEFT CANDIDATES AS WELL AS A SMALL PORTION (ABOUT 12 PERCENT ACCORDING TO ONE POLL) OF CHABAN'S VOTE. HE WILL THUS BE IN A GOOD POSITION

TO START THE SECOND ROUND. GISCARD, WHO HAS A LONGER WAY TO COME, CAN PRESUMABLY COUNT UPON THE BULK OF CHABAN'S BACKERS AND WILL ALSO FIND IT EASIER TO PICK UP MARGINAL VOTERS THAN WILL MITTERRAND. THE RUN-OFF WILL BE VERY CLOSE.

5. WISH TO STRESS FIGURES IN PARAGRAPH 3 ARE UNOFFICIAL PROJECTIONS BASED ON SMALL PERCENTAGE OF VOTE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION FORECASTS, TOSEC 270
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE092407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MJHABIB;EUR/INR:JHOSTIE:CBP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740108-0571
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740573/aaaacnmr.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MITTERRAND AND GISCARD WIN FIRST ROUND OF FRENCH ELECTION
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, FR, (MITTERRAND, FRANCOIS), (GISCARD D'ESTAING)
To: AMMAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005